

# Anglicanism 101

## Class 1: Course Introduction and Overview

**Overview:** The class will begin with a guest speaker (Dr. Greg Strong) who will give an overview of Anglican History & Identity. We will address these basic questions: What does it mean to be Anglican?, What is Anglicanism?, How is Anglicanism similar or different to other traditions? This "Anglicanism 101" introductory class will focus on the foundational elements of Anglican history and identity. One of the objectives will be to establish a "common vocabulary" that can develop as the class progresses. This will allow the participants to move forward with a common understanding, as well as a sense of their own different backgrounds and levels of understanding, as well as different perceptions of Anglicanism. This course is meant to provide a basic overview of Anglicanism and its expressions, historically and in our current time in our parish. In seeking to provide answers to the basic question, "What does it mean to be Anglican?," the course will explore Anglican foundations and history, theology and belief, and liturgy and worship. The tentative schedule is as follows:

**Class 1 (September 10): What does it mean to be Anglican? [History & Identity] / Course Introduction:**

Guest speaker Dr. Greg Strong; Introduction to Anglicanism 101 course, goals, schedule, and overview.

**Class 2 (September 17): How did we get to where we are? [Anglican Foundations & Thomas Cranmer]:**

Exploration of the English Reformation, the foundations of the Church of England, and Thomas Cranmer.

**Class 3 (September 24): How do we worship? [Anglican Worship & Sacraments]:**

Liturgical worship, sacraments, church calendar, etc.

**Class 4 (October 1): What is the BCP? [Anglican Book of Common Prayer]:**

Purpose, structure, contents, and use (historic & current) of the BCP and lectionary in worship and devotion.

**Class 5 (October 8): What do Anglicans believe & how do they act? [Anglican Frameworks]:**

Anglican frameworks for belief and ethics, including a survey of sources, ends, and means.

**Class 6 (October 15): What role does Scripture play? [Scripture as source for Anglican Belief & Ethics]:**

Old & New Testament sources for understanding beliefs and action/living/ethics.

**Class 7 (October 22): What's so different about Anglicans? [Distinctively Anglican sources]:**

The 39 Articles, the Book of Common Prayer, the Catechism, etc.

**Class 8 (October 29): What does it mean to be Reformed? [Reformation Day]:**

Guest speaker Dr. Chad Van Dixhoorn will address the significance of the English & Protestant Reformation.

**Class 9 (November 5): How do we live out our faith? [Character in Action: Wilberforce & More]:**

Evaluation of Hannah More and William Wilberforce as Anglican examples (belief, ethics, vocation, etc.).

**Class 10 (November 12): What does it mean to be Anglican? [Course Conclusion]:**

Discussion of Anglican distinctives: apostolic, reformational, mission-focused, Episcopal, liturgical, transformative, relevant.

### Recommended Resources:

- Null, Ashley and John W. Yates III, editors. *Reformation Anglicanism: A Vision for Today's Global Communion* (Wheaton; Crossway, 2017).
- Howe, John W. and Pascoe, Sam C., *Our Anglican Heritage: Can an Ancient Church Be a Church of the Future?* (Eugene; Cascade Books, 2010).
- Webber, Robert and Lester Ruth. *Evangelicals on the Canterbury Trail: Why Evangelicals Are Attracted to the Liturgical Church* (New York; Morehouse Publishing, 2012).